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JAMES D. DAWSON, PRESIDENT.
GEO. O. HASKELL, VICE PRESIDENT.
R. F. ISBELL, SECRETARY & TREASURER.

Houston, Texas, Dec 2, 1911.

Sweetheart of mine.

Just a word or two before I quit. This has been one busy week for me and I do hope I will get a breathing spell next week. Have been having quite an exciting time of it today. Found out Willie Leggett is going to get married tomorrow on the QT and we are all going to surprise him. Dan and Jim Jr. went down and picked out some silverware, about forty odd dollars worth and it will be presented to them with the compliments of the whole office force. Don't tell me I am not sorry to see such a thing happen because he is the only one that has taken pity on me since you left. Gee, but it is hard to stand. (?) Guess I will have to sleep on it. Fixed up the hat yesterday and dreamed about it all night. You just ought to see it. It is about a yard wide and you can hardly find me under it. What do you think of me getting a large hat, and it really looks nice on me. It like to have broken my heart to pay for it, though. Gee Gee Gee. I did though and hope I never will have to pay for another such.

Mother says you sure will make a good preacher, and I sure will make a good preacher's wife. Know why? Well you have heard the saying about the preacher living on what he can beg, Well you are begging for Christmas Cake, and I begged a Turkey. Good pair aren't we?. I shall tell her next time, that she also will make a good Preacher's wife's mother. Catch the drift?

Must skidoodle out now and get home and get some sleep so I can go to Sunday School tomorrow and also to Willie's wedding if I can find out where it is going to be.

With lots and lots and lots of love I am
Your girlie,

Alma.

ez 60-2



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#

Houston, Texas, December 4, 1911.

Sweetheart:

Well, I went around yesterday morning and had Leggett married off and consequently I am left by myself again. Hard luck, isn't it. Just when I get a new hat that looks somewhat decent on me and a pretty new dress I go and let the boy get married and the result is that I have to stay at home until I can get someone else to go with me a little.

Say, boy dear, I haven't had a letter from you since Thursday. That was Thanksgiving day and I got your letter saying you were going to eat dinner with the people you boarded with. Did you eat so much that you have not been able to navigate since? Looks like it from this end of the line, as it is now five o'clock Monday evening. That is the first time you ever ~~did~~ treat me so before.

What is the news from your mother and Perry? He never comes around the church any more, at least I never see him, maybe it is because I haven't been there so much myself. Saw Ivy there at ~~xxxxxx~~ Church yesterday. She was alone. She doesn't come to Sunday school much now, either.

Don't forget to be a good boy and study your lessons real hard,

Yours ever,

Alma

Des Moines Iowa December 4 1911

To the Official Board

of the University Place Church of Christ

Des Moines Iowa

Gentlemen:-

On the first Sunday in November the following were elected as officers of the Loyalty Christian Endeavor Society for the ensuing six months:- President, Kirby Page; Vice-President, Estella Saunders; Secretary, Ella Duckworth; Treasurer, Harry Dunlavy; Choirister, Frank Haney; Organist, Mayme Middleton.

On account of the great difficulty in hearing in the immense auditorium of the new church building, the meeting place for our regular Sunday evening service has been changed to the chapel of the old building. We were able to do this through the kindness of Mrs D E Williams and the Daisy Drake Endeavor Society, who, heretofore, had been meeting in the chapel.

The attendance at the Sunday evening services for the past month has been between 150 and 200 each evening, and the meetings have been very interesting and helpful. A new record was attained last Sunday evening when 102 different people took part in the service.

At our last Business meeting a motion was passed changing the time of our monthly business meeting from the first Sunday evening of each month to the night of our monthly

social gathering. It is thought that by this change we will be able to reach a larger percentage of our members at our Business meetings.

On Thanksgiving morning a Sunrise Prayer Meeting was held in the chapel, with an attendance of 60. After a devotional program of thirty minutes, the meeting adjourned in a body to the home of Mrs Nation, a widow lady with an invalid daughter, where each person deposited a pound of some article on her doorsteps, and then a verse of "The King's Business" was sung.

Under the leadership of Miss Grace Doudna, the Missionary Committee is sending out groups of our workers to the different Endeavor Societies in the city each Sunday night, for the purpose of helping them in their meetings in every possible way.

We have just accepted the challenge of the Oklahoma City Endeavor Society, said to be the largest in the United States, for a contest on the following points:- number present at Sunday evening service, number systematically pledging, number members of Comrades of Quiet Hour, number taking part in the meeting, etc.

At our Annual Missionary Offering on the last Sunday in October the sum of \$89.00 was pledged, some \$50.00 or \$60.00 of which has already been paid in. Out of this sum, a donation of \$25.00 has been made to the Grand View Church of Christ, and the balance will be turned into the

church treasury as soon as it is all paid in, to be distributed through the Church Missionary Funds.

We are still continuing our work of supplying the music for the Sunday afternoon service at the Home for the Aged. The song service, under the leadership of Frank Haney, adds greatly to the success of our regular Sunday evening meetings, and from time to time we are favored with special numbers. Our Calling and Flower Committees have made a number of visits to the sick during the month, carry^{ing} flowers and good cheer into the sick room.

A committee is now making a study of conditions in the county jail, and will soon make a report as to the advisability of our undertaking a work with the prisoners there.

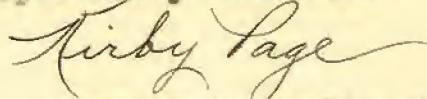
On the second Monday night of November, a most pleasant social gathering was held in the basement of the old church, with an attendance of over 200, many of whom were not members of Loyalty.

Our Lookout Committee, under the efficient leadership of A O Huckle, is making a thorough canvass of the students of the University for the purpose of interesting them in our work.

A new committee has been added to our regular committees. It is called the Quiet Hour Committee and has for its object the promotion of individual Bible study and private devotion among our members.

It is the opinion of the new President that it would be a very difficult matter to find a more consecrated and willing group of workers than we have in Loyalty Christian Endeavor. He farther wishes to express his very great pleasure in having a part with them in their work for the young people of this church and community.

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Kirby Page".

President Loyalty Christian Endeavor

The Men and Religion Forward Movement

IN BEHALF OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE OF MEN AND BOYS OF NORTH AMERICA

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December 4 1911

Mr Kirby Page

c/o Dean Bible School

Drake University

Des Moines Iowa

My dear Kirby:-

Our Men and Religion Movement
campaign is on in Houston from December 3 to
11, and I am sending you the Houston Daily Post
for the first two weeks in December as the best
means of keeping you informed as to the progress
of that work here during that time.

With best wishes, I am

Cordially yours

IEH/IEH

I. E. Munger
Wish you were here - I

DRAKE UNIVERSITY

DES MOINES, IOWA.

SHERMAN KIRK
DEAN, COLLEGE OF THE BIBLE

December 5 1911

My dear Mother:-

Time surely is going by in a hurry with me these days. Just think, it is only three weeks until Christmas will be here - then it won't be long until June - and then - well, we'll be happy together, won't we?

The final examinations are only two weeks off, so you can imagine I am pretty busy getting ready for them. Have no doubt but that I'll get through all O K.

Jack and I are getting on together just famously. I wish you could know each other. I am sure you would like him. He is full of life and fun all the time and yet is a good scholar. We make some team, "belief" me.

I had the pleasure of meeting with the official board of University Place Church last night. It was quite a privilege and will no doubt mean a great deal to me. **EVERYTHING** is coming my way. **WATCH OUT FOR ME.**

I was mighty glad to hear that you had enjoyed Thanksgiving day. I can't understand how you can be so cheerful - and yet things are a great deal better than they have been - so why be blue?

With lots and lots and lots and lots of love, I am

Your old boy

Kirby

Nashville Young Men's Christian Association

OFFICE OF
GENERAL SECRETARY

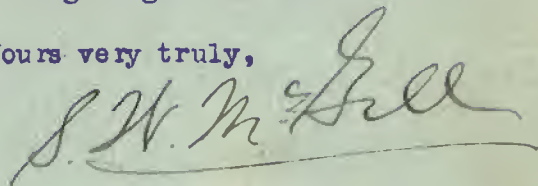
December 5, 1911.

Mr. Kirby Page,
C/O Y. M. C. A.,
Houston, Tex.

Dear Sir:-

In our search for a Boys' Work Director your name has been suggested to us. We would be very glad to know whether or not you are available for a change of field. If so, we would be glad to have you fill out the enclosed secretarial blank. Any other information you are willing to give us will be thankfully received.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "S. W. McCall", is written over a horizontal line.

NASHVILLE YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

December 5 1911

Mr I E Munger

C/O Y M C A

Houston Texas

Dear Sir:-

In our search for a Boys' Work Director Mr Kirby Page has been suggested to us. We are taking the liberty of writing him today and want to advise you of the fact that we are communicating with him. If, for any reason, Mr Page is available for a change of field we would appreciate any information about him you would care to give us.

Yours very truly

(Signed) S W McGill

C O P Y

mlm

Rio, La. 12-6-1911

Dear Kirby:-

Listen here - You had better go to Mother or get her to come to you. She is out of work and has no money. Watch what I say you had better watch out for her. No use in me saying I'm sorry for I cant do anything now. stranded here but will do the best I can. You know you would never forgive yourself if anything happened to her. Just heard from her this morning. Better take some steps to do something. at least send her some money.

as ever, your bud
Perry

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MANUFACTURERS OF
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P.O. DRAWER M 1793

JAMES D. DAWSON, PRESIDENT.
GEO. O. HASKELL, VICE PRESIDENT.
R. F. ISBELL, SECRETARY & TREASURER.

Houston, Texas, Dec. 7, 1911.
8:30 am.

Box 1793

Sweetheart:

Just in from my ride through the splendiferous and somewhat notorious Heights Mud. However, Dick and I haven't much use for the street mud, so we ride on the Esplanade, you see it dosent say a word about fining a person for riding, only driving, and Dick hasn't any rubber boots or mud guards or all that stuff.

I didn't get your Thanksgiving letter and the one written next day, until yesterday, the reason for such delay being, I suppose, on account of the Postoffice having moved to the new building and we now have a new box, number 1793. There are no longer any boxes that are lettered like the old one, and we have the smallest number in the big ones, and one of the biggest. So in future please send all letters to box 1793, instead of M.

I didn't happen to think about the change causing any delay until after I had gotten the letters, and you may be sure I thought you had just forgotten all about me, and then coming right on top of Willie getting married, it looked pretty much like I was a Jonah, for sure. I still don't see any use in having a pretty hat and dress now unless I can get a chance to wear them some time besides in the mornings. You just can't imagine how dressed up I do look. Why I really don't believe you would know me at first.

Be sure and have two good times at every place you go, and when they make any candy just eat twice your share for me. I can't get enough candy to save my life. I eat all I can get my hands on and still want more, but I would have to be a millionaire to stand my candy appetite. I think it is real mean of you not to let Jack scribble a line telling me what you need or want. Guess I will just have to make a random guess and send you any old kind of a Christmas present.

Well, heres good luck to you for a day or two Don't neglect your studies, but be a Good Little Boy and don't let teacher have to scold you for mizbehaviorr

Yours ever,

Alma



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P.O. DRAWER - M Box 1793

HOUSTON, TEXAS, December 9, 1911.

96: 2800

Say, boy dear, don't tell Jack too much about me that is, don't give him too much of how you see me, because I don't want him to be TOO dissappointed when he sees me. I know he has me pictured out as a queen among women from the way you have painted me, ~~box~~ and not just a wee little kid with a stubborn mouth and a sassy face; or then, he might think I am too serious when he really sees me. You should tell him a little fault now and then just to balance things off a little. I know, for one, that he will be much disappointed, because even my pictures flatter me, but dont tell anyone how bad and wreckless I am. I am taking my last year as a tomboy and you can just bet I am putting in good time. There is not a street car in Houston that can beat Dick and I when the roads are good, and I am dubbed the Rough Rider all over the Heights. I don't get to town much as yet and people up there don't know much about me except those that see me from the cars out in the Heights, but I expect they know enough. Haven't found anyone to ride with me yet, but I am still hoping.

Had to go to town today to get me a new skirt. Nick and I just rub through everything we come up against, saddle blankets skirts coats and everything else. He even does his part to wear out shoes, (His shoes). He saves my soles but sure does splash the mud when there is any to scatter. There's no getting around it. We are a pair. Also WE are a pair.

You need not have any fears about that hat of mine. It is just simply a peacherino and makes me look like a peach. Everyone thinks it looks good on me, and as for you, well I can tilt it to one side, but you will have to stay on that same side all the time. For your information, I will tilt it on the left which puts me on your right. See?

Well I dine with Willie and his bride tomorrow and as I said I am going to try to put another beau to my string. His roommate will also be there. He was the other witness last Sunday morning and I think we will be quite good friends. At least I hope we can. I hope you will not mind it, because you see, it would not do much good anyway, because you are up there and I am down here. See? You tell Mildred she had better mind out how she runs around with you, because I know her and will have a chance to paddle her when she comes back. You see the advantage I have over you is that You will not know just who I have been running around with, except when you go with some of the other girls, then I will have to depend on Mildred to tell me who they are. How about Mildred's sister, you never mention her. Is she never in the crowd? Still she is so much quieter and I guess she doesn't make much fuss. You had better be a mighty good boy because you know the birds have a way of telling me about you.

Don't get to frolicing too much and working too much and neglect your studies, because I know you like to frolic as much as I do and I am not there to paddle you now and then. Tell you what, though, you can talk about spoiled children all you like, but I never knew how spoiled I was until you left. I guess that is the reason all the boys avoid me. Im rotten. I want everyone to wait on me and step lively when I tell them to and they dont seem to be accustomed to such. and then, the other boys are not as polite as they could be.

Val and I are still pretty good pals, but the other day we sure did play a joke on him and he is not wise yet. Mr. D. went to New York and Val instructed him to send his girl some flowers for him and also to see her while he was there. The pater wired that he had seen Val's girl and sent the flowers and Jim and Dan and I immediately proceeded to fix up a fake telegram from him girl. Jim dictated it and I wrote it and gave it to him, and you just ought to have heard what he said. He was quite a diligent worker all day and still is and thinks I am the candy kid because I was so good to him, but he can't see how it is the boys got hold of the information that he got a message and he will not believe I treated him bad a bit, but -----well just wait until he hears from that girl after acknowledging receipt of the message. I know I am going to have to do some hard arguing, but heres hoping I will come out all right. I just have got to come out all right, because Val is my right hand pal when it comes to looking up the pony when he runs too far down in the milland helping me saddle up and such. It sure will be hard because I will have to keep Dan and Jim in a good light too. Hard isn't it? Just wait until they

play a joke on me some day. We have clubbed together and joked everyone ^{over} around here and I guess it is my time next. I am going to be on my lookout all the time, cause I have to be, and they sure will get a good one when they do get one at all. Hope I will be able to take it good naturedly.

Boy dear, I am just getting to be the worst kid ever, you don't know how much I need you to scold me a little and make me be good. I hope you are not the same way.

Mother intends going to the bay some where or other next year, I expect to Seabrook, and will try and get down there during July and August if possible. Guess we will have to plan to be there during August at least, can't we? Or perhaps if you must work I will go and you come down now and then, but I guess you can afford to take a little time off, cant you? Shall we look forward to that time?

Am going to try and go to Navasota during Christmas week if I can just for a day or two. I know it will do me good, and I don't know what I will do ~~xxx~~ to the people up there.

"Christianity wants nothing so much in the world as sunny people and the old are hungrier for love than for bread. The oil of Joy is very cheap, and if you can help the poor with a Garment of Praise, it will be better for them than blankets."

Christmas is coming Boy dear, and I am lonesome, for you. I am going to be as good as I can and as happy as I can even if you are not here, and you do the same. Don't forget boy dear that you are still trying to be modest and to learn to use your will power.

d. V. & M. - 12
e. r. & s. s.

3 1,

Alma.

Nashville Young Men's Christian Association

OFFICE OF
GENERAL SECRETARY

Nashville, Dec., 11, 1911.

Mr. Kirby Page,
c/o Y. M. C. A.,
Houston, Tex.

Dear Sir:-

Enclosed please find the secretarial blank, referred to in our last communication, which we find was overlooked in the mailing. We are sorry to have overlooked it and trust you will fill out as early as possible and return to us.

Yours very truly,

S. W. McCall



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P.O. DRAWER M

HOUSTON, TEXAS, December 11, 1911.

Dearest boy:

Just a line to say hello to you. It has been raining here like everything and then some ever since Saturday night and I did not get to go outside of the house yesterday and you can just imagine how puffed up and mean I am. I think it has about stopped the rain now and we may have a little norther, at least I hope so.

Am enclosing to you copy of a clipping from the Haps Page of the Sunday Post, of some time since. I think it is just as pretty as can be and is so odd and different from anything else I have ever seen.

Mother says she might be persuaded to send you a slice or two of that fruit cake, so you can look out for it sometime about Christmas. Not a bit sooner. Am glad to hear that Perry seems to be doing better and do hope he will continue to be a good kid. I don't see how on earth he can be so bad when he has a mother and brother like his.

Good night dear, be a good boy.

Yours ever,

Alma

December 12 1911

Mr S W McGill General Secretary
Young Men's Christian Association
Nashville Tennessee

Dear Sir:-

Your inquiry of the 5th inst. was forwarded to me from Houston, and has just come to hand.

On September 1st I severed my connections with the Houston Association, in order to enter Drake University, for the purpose of better preparing myself for Christian service, and consequently, I am not in a position to consider the Boys' Work Directorship of your Association at this time. If you should be in need of anyone after I have completed my work here in the University, I shall be glad to correspond with you in regard to same.

Wishing you the greatest of success in your work in the new building, I am

Yours sincerely

FIDELITY
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FIDELITY CHEMICAL CORPORATION

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JAMES D. DAWSON, PRESIDENT.
GEO. O. HASKELL, VICE PRESIDENT.
R. F. ISBELL, SECRETARY & TREASURER.

Houston, Texas, December 13, 1911.
4:45 pm.

Mr. Kirby Pago,
1336 Twenty Fifth St.,
Des Moines, Iowa.

Dearest Boy of mine:

Well, what do you think of the new fangled envelopes that the new corporation has invested in? Of course, we have to try everything new that comes along, so could not get along without those. Don't know wether they save much time or not, but I hope they do. Will have to get accustomed to folding the letters fast this way before they will save any time for me and then learn how to put them in the envelope faster than I do.

We are just having a swimming old time down here now. Never saw so much raon in all my life, at least not in the last few years. The poor old farmers will not have a ~~ghost~~ of a chance to blame the good Lord for not sending them enough precipitation during the fall to shoot the cotton and everything else up to the sky next year. Wonder what they will do?

Dick and I tried to swim today, the first time since Saturday, and suppose we will swim home if I can get off early enough, which seems likely, but if I don't, will have to go on the car and I have only three cents that I can call my own just at present. Pretty good showing for so near pay-day, isn't it? And I do not want to borrow any.

Hope you got along all right with your sermon and that the poor people survived. Did you have to organize a 'first aid to the agitated,' Society before you left? or did you get off scot free? Hope they didn't do you any damage, because I don't want you to come home battered up any. Understand?

Be a mighty good boy, cause Christmas is comin.

Yours faithfully,

Alma

- To (2) - 2314

English 1 - Section 1



A PURPOSE RENEWED

Kirby Page



December 15 1911

A PURPOSE RENEWED

Kirby Page

I.

Three years had gone by since Jack Holliday and his widowed mother had moved from the old home in Alabama to Pasadena, California, where Jack had secured a position as stenographer with the Cameron Lumber Company, and by his cheerful and efficient services had risen to the position of secretary to the president of the company.

One day just as Jack was leaving the study of Rev. W. S. Hudson, with whom he had been having a conference in regard to plans for work with his class of boys in Sunday School, the pastor suddenly exclaimed, "Jack, I have been wondering for a long time why you do not go away and study for the ministry."

"I never had thought very much about it, because it seemed impossible for me to undertake such a thing", replied Jack.

"Why does it seem impossible?"

"Well, there are several reasons that make it out of the question for me to consider it. As you know, mother is dependent on me for support, and then I do not have the necessary funds to keep me while in school."

"Are these the only obstacles in your way?"

"Well, there is one other thing", Jack replied, getting rather red in the face. "You see, Louise and I

are planning to be married before very long", he continued, shifting nervously in his chair.

"That does make a difference", replied the minister. "But you are both young yet, so why don't you postpone the matter for a time?"

"Things have gone too far for that. Louise has already bought her wedding dress, and has nearly all of her arrangements made."

"And as far as your finances are concerned, I can secure you a place as secretary to the president of the college, that will enable you not only to make your own expenses, but to take care of your mother as well", continued Rev. Hudson.

And so after being urged by the pastor, Jack agreed to talk the matter over with Louise the first opportunity that he had.

The next day was the Fourth of July, and as Jack had a holiday, he and Louise planned to take a trolley ride to the summit of Mount Lowe. Shortly after twelve o'clock they reached their destination, and soon had their luncheon spread beneath a large oak tree.

It was one of those clear days for which California is noted, and from where they were seated one could see the Pacific, some thirty miles distant; and far beyond the shore line one could make out Catalina Islands, miles distant from the mainland. Nearby in the valley were great orange orchards and grape vineyards; while far to the northeast one could get a glimpse of snow-capped "Old Baldy".

After the remains of the luncheon had been cleared away, and given to the squirrels, Jack, in a half hearted way, told Louise of the conversation that he had had with Rev. Hudson in regard to his going away and preparing for the ministry. After they had talked it over and considered it from all sides, Louise said, "It seems to me that this is too great an opportunity to let pass. I believe you ought to take advantage of it, Jack."

"But Louise, we are to be married in a few weeks."

"We can afford to wait, Jack. It is impossible for a man to accomplish very much these days without a college education, and then I have always wished that you might be a minister."

And so after further consideration, they decided that Jack should enter Denver University in September.

II.

Four years brought great changes to the life of Jack Holliday. He had proved to be a good student, and ranked high in his classes, and although he did not take a very large part in athletics, he managed to win the golf championship three years in succession. After the first year, he occasionally went out and preached at the nearby

churches and came to be quite a fluent speaker. Indeed, he won the highest honors in the oratorical contest during his senior year.

However, the greatest change that came over him was in his spiritual life. When he first came to the university he continued the practice that he had formed years before of reading his Bible each day, but as his time came to be more and more occupied with the duties of school life and the study of Philosophy, Psychology and the other sciences, he came to the point where he seldom took time to read the Bible at all. The deeper he went into these studies, the less desire he had to be a minister, until finally, just before graduation day, he made up his mind that he would give up his plan of preaching, and resolved that he would enter business.

One evening shortly after his return home, as he and Louise were sitting in the old lawn swing, Jack exclaimed, "Louise, I am afraid you are going to be disappointed in me."

"What makes you think that", questioned Louise.

"Have I said anything that would cause you to think that I had lost faith in you?"

"No", answered Jack, "but there is one thing that I have never told you."

"What is it Jack?" cried Louise, in a half frightened manner.

After a moment's hesitation, Jack replied, "For some reason I no longer have the desire to be a minister".

"Why Jack, what in the world has caused this change?"

"I really do not know when it came about. I think

of it again and again. Finally, he removed his feet from the table, laid the Bible on his lap, buried his head in his hands, and sat motionless for several minutes. Then he began whispering to himself, "There must be something in this old Book after all. How can I account for its influence on mother and Louise, unless it be true? How can I account for its influence on civilization, if it be mere opinions of human beings? Oh what a fool I have been to neglect it. I see now where I made my mistake. I understand now that the study of this Book is the most important of all studies, and hereafter I shall not neglect it." And without removing his clothes, he threw himself across the bed and was soon asleep.

When Jack came down to breakfast in the morning, he found his mail awaiting him. The first letter that he opened was in strange handwriting, and after reading it, he called to his mother out in the kitchen, "Oh mother, whom do you suppose has written me?"

"I am no good at guessing, so tell me", replied his mother, as she came into the room.

"It is from the clerk of the Congregational Church at Monrovia, and they extend me a call to the pastorate of that church", replied Jack.

"Well, what are you going to do about it?"

"I think I will go and talk it over with Louise after breakfast."

Louise saw him coming and came out to the gate to meet him. "Oh Jack, she cried, "I just know you have good news. I can tell from the way you look."

"That I have, little girl," replied Jack. "I have decided to accept the call that came this morning to the pastorate of a little church up in the foothills near Monrovia."

"Oh I am so glad", cried Louise, as they went into the house together.



T H E E N D





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P.O. DRAWER M

JAMES D. DAWSON, PRESIDENT.
GEO. O. HASKELL, VICE PRESIDENT.
R. F. ISBELL, SECRETARY & TREASURER.

Houston, Texas, Dec. 16, 1911.

166.

Dearest Boy:

Well, what do you think? It has really stopped raining at last. Stopped yesterday morning, and it likes one day of having rained a solid week. Roads still pretty bad but Dick and I manage to get along. I am just about as happy as can be to get to ride again. It was so bad that I didn't get to ride more than about two days this week in spite of my raincoat and all other accessories.

Christmas is pretty near here, and I never saw a duller looking old Xmas in my life, from this distance. I do not even think I will get to go to Navasota, but I am going to wait and just as sure as I see a ghost of a chance I sure will grab it. Mother says we get poorer every year. Wonder what she will have to think next year? that is, as far as the financial standpoint is looked at. Will try to get mothers gift to you off some time the first part of next week. We sure have had a lot of fun planning it up and you can just expect a lot of fun opening it, and it would be a good idea to have Jack near when you do, but no one else. See?

With lots and lots of love, I am,

13 Alma.

DRAKE UNIVERSITY

DES MOINES, IOWA.

SHERMAN KIRK
DEAN, COLLEGE OF THE BIBLE

December 15 1911

My dear Mother:-

With this you will find enclosed a copy of a wonderful story that I had to write in our class in English. As you will no doubt be able to see, the framework of the story is based upon the actual experiences of certain of my friends, although there are portions of it that are considerably overdrawn, and the latter part of it is all fiction. The part that deals with the hero getting off the track, so to speak, is purely fiction - I had to have him do something and thought that was the easiest way out.

Next week my troubles begin, for we have our quarterly examinations. Think perhaps I won't have much trouble in getting through. I think I will do well if I make it at all (have no doubt but that I will), considering that the fact that I have been out of school so long and have been doing so much on the outside. However, I feel that the outside work is just as important as the studies, and intend to get as much of both as possible.

I am in as good health as I have ever been in my life. After eating those three chicken dinners at Redfield I weighed myself and the scales showed 173 pounds, the most I have ever weighed. You ought to see my eat - I am right there with both feet.

I have been getting the Post for the past two weeks, and sure have enjoyed reading about the happenings down your way. Mr Munger sent it to me on account of the Men & Religion Campaign. It was good of him, was it not? The fellows at the building surely have treated me fine, especially Bellmont. I hear from him every week or two.

I think we are real fortunate in being able to get all of the Kash things for \$100.00 - it's dirt cheap. As to your letting Mrs Douglass have the other room, I don't know what to think about it. I'm afraid that you are going to be awfully crowded and uncomfortable in the one room. Mother dear, don't hesitate to use the \$50.00. I am sure that I can send you \$5.00 or \$10.00 a month now, which it ought to make it unnecessary for you to work all the time. I am looking about, and find that house rent is some cheaper here than in Houston. I believe that we can sell what we have for enough to get us all here and have enough left to partially furnish a house. If we could get a large house and let out three or four rooms we could just about make our rent, and the rest ought to be easy sailing. It would not take so very much to furnish a house, with what we already have, and I believe we could make the thing go all right. We will see more about it later.

With lots of love, I am

Your old boy

Kirby



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P.O. DRAWER M

HOUSTON, TEXAS, December 18, 1911.
9 am.

JAMES D. DAWSON, PRESIDENT
GEO. O. HASKELL, VICE PRESIDENT
R. F. ISBELL, SECRETY AND TREAS.

Sweetheart of mine:

I still haven't received any letter from you telling about your sermon. You promised such, but it has never come to hand. Do tell me about it, and keep your promise.

I went to see your mother yesterday evening and found her getting ready to go to Mr. Munger's. I think that is about the best thing she could do. She tells me that Perry is doing worse than ever over in Louisiana. Hard to tell what that boy will finally do. Your mother seemed to be in a pretty good humor, though, and there is not a bit of use in worrying over him.

Now for that shorthand letter. I am not a bit surprised at you, because Mildred tells the girls that all the girls up there are in love with you and that you are the most popular boy in the school, with the girls. And you need not worry about me being jealous, I am not one bit jealous and never have been. No dear, I think more of myself, and I am not that weak, I am only sorry that you could be so weak yourself. You say that you are only human, why dear, to admit that, is to admit that you are weak, and that is what you are trying to overcome. To be only human, is to be the weakest of the weak, and dear, God never meant that one whom he has favored as he has favoured you, should lack self command of all things. Boy do you try? Do you ask God to help you? It lies wholly with you whether you should be your own ideal or not. And sweetheart, sweetheart, what matter if we are miles and miles apart? Don't you know that I am always with you? In my thoughts and my prayers? Can distance take you away from me? Still, I know I could help you more if you were with me, or rather, I with you. I was reading a piece the other night, and I think it was Washington Irving, who likened Man and Woman to an Oak and a Vine, that the oak which had taken years and years to grow to its strength, and beauty, should be the support of the more feeble vine, which wound its tendrils lovingly around it and depended upon the oak for its support because it was weak, but when the winter came and the oak was bare, the vine was green, and when the tempest came that would uproot the oak in a moment, when it had taken years to attain its beauty and strength, the same

little feeble vine wound its tendrils lovingly and securely around the great tree and held it by its very strength. So man, who is stronger, must support woman in his strength and power, because of her very weakness, but when he is despondent, and reverses come, she shows ever a smiling face to the outer world, and when even harder and more painful trouble overtakes them, and man would go down, Woman's very weakness and love are the strengths that hold him back from the brink of ruin, and is it not so, and am I not even now, the vine that would help you?

Now boy, let me tell you one thing that I want you to bear in mind. Beware of the girl that cries! Now I don't say this because this girl happened to cry, but I say it because I would tell anyone of it. The girl that can tune up and cry before a stranger is weak and deceitful., because ~~xxxx~~ she knows that she cannot attract man by her strength of character, but must depend on her weakness, for all women know that a man will always do one of two things when a woman cries, and that is, he will either storm and get angry, or, he will be sympathetic. And he is usually sympathetic. All girls know this, not because anyone has ever told them this, but because it has been so forever and is merely instinct. and because they know this, they are deceitful when they try to attract a man thus. Am I not right?

I am sorry boy dear, but I trust you will do your best to keep out of such foolishness next time. Would I be ONLY HUMAN if I let a boy kiss me? Or is it woman's place to show strength.

Now boy, I am going to tell you one ^{thing} thing. You don't wrong yourself, or me, half as much as you wrong the girl in question. This you know, and this, I have argued out with you before. You are up there preparing for a work that will help both man and woman, no matter whether you become a YMCA or a minister, and YOU are setting a good example.

Now sweetheart, the wording of this letter may sound harsh and plain, but I could not put it less harsh and make it quite as forcible as I would, so forgive me if I seem to harsh. You know I don't mean to be that. Read this and think it over and you will see that I am right. (as usual)?).

I only wish I were there with you, but there are five months more, and you you must look out for yourself for that time. You can, and you will. I don't want you to promise me though, because I don't like to see you break a promise.

I am, yours ever

Alma



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P.O. DRAWER M

HOUSTON, TEXAS, December 20, 1911.

Dear baby boy:

Yesterday morning I sent you a box by express. I know ~~now~~ that I should have sent it sooner, but didn't know then, however, I hope it reaches you in time as I market it perishable and everything else imaginable to put it through quick.

You must not open it, though, until Christmas if it gets there sooner. Guess you know what is inside of it. The fruit cake is of cottonseed flour and you can tell anyone that gets a taste of it that it is purely a Southern product all around. The other is a piece of a pound cake and the receipt says it will keep a year. Will that?

With all sorts of love and best wishes for a very merry Christmas, I am,

Yours faithfully,

Alma.

eg - f b. Ex

Tuesday Evening. 12/15/11
Houston, Texas.

Dearest Boy:

I. I am going to do my best to write you a real letter with a real pen and ink and my own right hand. I trust my boy has had a nice Xmas even if he was away from home.

Sweetheart, I don't know how I ever will thank you for the pretties you sent me. Just you wait until I get you back here; I will thank you then. Is that suitable to you? I haven't had much of a chance to read all the "love loves" in the book as yet but I sure have made good use of my vanity glass. why didn't you stick your mug in too? Everyone wants a look

your ring and those pretty curly locks again. your picture is all that is lacking. Can't you send me one, dearie? please do. It is perfect beautiful now but with your picture it will be splendiferous.

I trust you received the box all right and the ties. be sure and make good use of that powder bag when you shave, and that white tie is to be used when you "preach", or on special dress occasions. And, have you "Darned the holes"? I do wish I could have sent you something else real nice, but never mind dear, I will give you something nice next time.

I received your other shorthand letter this morning and I am glad you are going to try to

cultivate more will power. I'll make a bet with you, though. I just bet you can't get your self control to as good a degree as I can. Will you try?

Your remembrance for Perry was forwarded from Louisiana and it came out here. I sent it with a note to Mr. Munger to carry to your mother. I hope she is getting along all right. I thought I saw Perry walking down the street the other day, or it was Sunday. I was on the South End car and couldn't see his face, but suppose it was him. Hope he will not worry your mother.

I had a real nice time during time. Cleo and Robert and the Baby came up Saturday morning.

and stayed until last evening -
That Baby is sure one more
case and you can just bet
we have had a time in spite
of the bad weather - Today is the
first sunshine we have had for
about two weeks and there
is more water in Houston than
there ever was before since the
storm.

I went over to Lena
Gordons last night and
we sure had a time with
Lena, Robbie, Miss Miller of
Brunner and myself and of
course four boys - What do
you think dear, I played
High 5 and Any partner
and I beat Robbie and Frank
four games out of five. I sure
did get some heart and

diamonds in my hands.
Gene said I was just
the luckiest kid ever but
I told him you "Can't keep
a good person down". I got
home at 12:30 AM or PM
whichever you care to call
it. but had so much rest
previous that I feel fine
today and am not a bit
sleepy.

Have had to stop all
through this letter to take
telegrams and answer the
Widdie questions and
everything else so just consider
the source of any mistakes.

I trust my boy will
have a nice holiday and that
he will start the new year
off as best he can and

ever be the dear sweet
boy he already is.

Remember dear, I love
you as much as ever and
you must live up to that
love for your own sake as
well as mine.

Ever be your own self
sweetheart and remember
"God would love you thus"
also remember that you
are my own boy and
that I am ever

Yours-
Alma.

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Pasadena, Cal. 12-25-1911. 191

Mr. Kirby Page,

Des Moines, Iowa.

Dear Kirby:-

We are thinking of you today because it is Christmas and we wish you happiness. And tomorrow, because it will be the day after Christmas, we shall wish you happiness and so on clear through the year. We may not be able to tell you about it every day but that makes no difference. The thought and the wish will be there just the same. Whatever joy or success may come to you will make us glad.

We hope this few lines will you assure that all we are wishing for ourselves we also wish for you and yours. May it be a joyful time to you and filled with many good things.

We are not in position to give presents this year, as we have bought a home, so are writing letters to everyone. Our total expenditures, including postage and stationery and for each other, will be less than \$5.00.

We are fortunately blessed with health and strength so find ourselves in good spirits all the time. Business is still good, the home improves in appearance and value, we are free from domestic troubles, quite happy in fact and in perfect accord with each other and environment; therefore all is well.

May God bless you on this happy day and give you the desires of your heart throughout the coming year is our wish.

Lovingly,

Norma and Leah

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COR. LINCOLN AVE. AND ATLANTA ST.

Pasadena, Cal. 12-26-1911. 191

Dear Kirby:-

Hellosky and howdoyoudosky! This is a fine day, too. Received a mighty pretty present today from Des Moines. One that I shall value highly and enjoy immensely. You are right there with the color scheme and I can keep warm all winter now. Thanks for the remembrance and toggery. Have had a fine time of it so far and lots of cards, letters, presents and fun.

Norma and I took lunch and hiked it by trail to Mt. Echo and the Observatory yesterday. Same old way we went exactly only we let well enough alone and stopped there. Fine day of it. Spent Sunday with Mrs. Barnard who is dearer to us than ever.

Perry is back and Mother has vacated, is the latest I have. I am glad she has cast him off and now can have some peace. He will get a jolting down some of these days, until then we can only hope for the best, like a runaway horse on the rampant. I have no word from him at all for some time; only meagre cards.

Your fine letter came yesterday. You are "going some" and to be congratulated. I did smile, so did Mrs. Barnard when I told her about it. She has been trying to get me into something like that but to speak at the Christian Endeavor Mission Sunday evening is nearest I have been or will get to it. My talent is in other directions. Glad you are doing so nicely in all.

My employer gave me an envelope Saturday containing \$10. and a little note which said: "This is to wish you a Merry Christmas. And also to acknowledge faithful services for the Company." I was surprised and pleased indeed. Business still hums. He is planning to spend several months back East right after winter breaks up; will leave me in charge with buying and all to do.

My weight is 164# and I am climbing higher steadily. 22# to the good since leaving Houston. We are splendid specimens of robust health and vigor and happier each week than one before.

I trust your plans mature looking to your early marriage and you have our best wishes. Hope the new year will bring you much of all that is to be desired and may you be very happy. Remember you will be there several years and don't try to do it all today. Above all don't let your head get away from you. Nuf sed. May God richly bless you and give you success and keep you aright.

Lovingly, *Leah*

Young Men's Christian Association

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December 27 1911

Mr Kirby Page

Drake University

Des Moines Iowa

My dear old Kirby:-

The fact that I have not written you lately is no sign that you have not been very much on my mind and heart the past few weeks. Your good letter came Christmas day and all here have enjoyed it as well as my folks at home, including your mother. I hope you are not sorry that "your folks" are "my folks" for the present. We are very happy about it, both for your mother's sake, your sake and our sake, and we believe it most providential at this time.

She was very reluctant to come at first, only because she feared she could not do the work. But we assured her that she could, and we are all much pleased with her work, including the doctor himself, while Father insists that she does many of the little things so important in the sick room much better than either the nurse or the doctor. Mr and Mrs Douglass feel with me that it is also very much better for your mother. You know that there is no happiness so great as being of service and a blessing to someone else, and I can see that it is having its effect on your dear mother. As she was washing the breakfast dishes Christmas morning she said to me, "Do you know what I would be doing if I were at home alone now? I would be in that little old kitchen alone and would be crying." And that was, no doubt, what she did do much of the time, while now she is laughing and joking a good deal.

Perry is back from Louisiana, has called at the house where Mrs Douglass told him that his mother had gone out to nurse and turned the house over to her.

He has been here to see me. I had a good talk with him--the best I have ever had, but did not as yet tell him where his mother is. I did tell him that I wanted him to let her alone, not worry her, and do something for himself demonstrating beyond doubt that he is really in earnest. He promised to do that, but it remains to be seen. You remember what I told you of a nephew, so "I am from Missouri and must be shown."

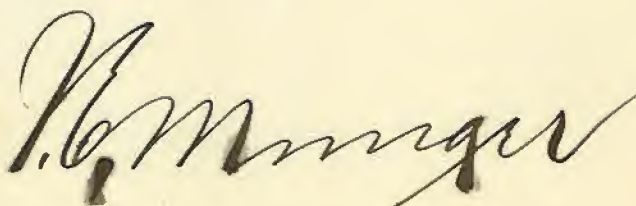
Miss Mason, you will remember, came over from Florida to succeed Miss Johnson. Mother asked her out to dinner Christmas, and we set the table up in Father's room and all ate dinner with him there. I was with him all day Sunday and Monday. He is very poorly and seems much weaker than he did a few weeks ago, but we are doing everything we can for him and trying to cheer him up. I told Mr Wilson yesterday that I must insist upon giving more attention to my father and would be glad to resign or take a few months leave of absence. He urged me to continue being in my office until noon each day, which I shall try to do for the present.

We are so glad to hear about your work and to know how well you are doing. Christmas morning we all adjourned to Father's room after breakfast and opened our packages, which had been saved, your mother having a liberal share which included the one from you, which she said was just what she needed.

We all send love, and be sure to remember that our love cannot be measured by simply the number of times we write, because our hands and hearts are full. Write when you can.

Sincerely yours

IEM/MLM

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "P. C. Munger". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, prominent initial "P".

*United Society of Christian Endeavor,
Tremont Temple,
Boston, Mass.*

*Full Address,
Endeavor, Boston.*

Dec. 27, 1911.

Mr. Kirby Page,
Drake University,
Des Moines, Iowa.

Dear Brother,

Your favor of December 23 received and it is a pleasure to hear of the success attending your work.

The paper will be sent to Miss McFadden as you request. The price is \$1.50, and the 65 cents has been applied on your account with the United Society.

I regret to say that I have no detailed information in regard to the largest societies in America, but feel that I am safe in saying that you are in the front rank of single societies.

In some churches they have several societies, feeling that the best work can be done by a society of about sixty members.

This is true of the Grace Baptist Temple in Philadelphia, which has fifteen sections in its society of Christian Endeavor, no section being allowed to have more than sixty members. They meet at different hours on Sunday and at different times during the week.

We have such a very wide field, with such a large number of societies, that we are not able to give very much space in our paper to individual reports, but we are always glad to receive news of any special methods or successful forms of work, which can be briefly set before other societies for their encouragement and help.

Cordially yours,

Wm Shaw.

General Secretary.



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P.O. DRAWER M

HOUSTON, TEXAS, December 29, 1911.
11 am.

DearesttBoy:

Yestarday was my day to have written you, but I took a holiday and, as you know, it is so hard to write on a holiday. I fully intended sending you at least a card, but somehow I went off and forgot it. I spent the whole day up town. It was just as pretty and clear as could be, and Mr. McCane and I took the evening getting a rooming house census of one district for the C.C.C. I spent the first part of the day shopping and spent all the money I had and then some. I indulged in a long coat and a white suit to go with my white hat. I had already indulged in a pair of black velvet shoes. (or rather boots) I also got a red dress. Don't tell me, but I am going to have some dresses or something or other for a time to come. I hope I will. I saw Mr. Scott also and exchanged a few words with him. He is as fat as a pig. I was also looking my best, with my new hat. It is raining like ~~sooooo~~ everything today.

Hope you received that box all O.K. and Darned the holes or Wholes. ? Yours lovingly,

Alma



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JAMES D. DAWSON, PRESIDENT.
GEO. O. HASKELL, VICE PRESIDENT.
R. F. ISBELL, SECRETARY & TREASURER.

Houston, Texas, December 30, 1911.

Dearest boy:

Was glad to learn that you received the box O.K.
but the express really was prepaid and I am enclosing here-
with receipt for same marked prepaid and you can go and make
the agent fork up. They always try to overcharge and I really
should have sent you the receipt at first.

Glad you and all the rest of them enjoyed the cake
and wish you could be here tomorrow and Monday to finish up
the last of the fruit cake and pound cake.

I t s s t i l l r a i n i n g . . . ! ! ! ? ? ? ? ?-----
That is the way I feel about it. It washed the footbridges
away from Alston st. this morning and they had to be towed
back by some kids and put in place before I could get off
which was 9 am.

I trust you will have a very happy new year and that
the next one will be still happier. Oh boy I do get lonesome
some times, but I am doing the best I can.

With lots and lots and lots of love, I am

Yours

Alma